

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 970 674 A2

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
12.01.2000 Bulletin 2000/02

(51) Int Cl.7: **A61F 13/00**

(21) Application number: **99650057.5**

(22) Date of filing: **12.07.1999**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
**AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE**
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

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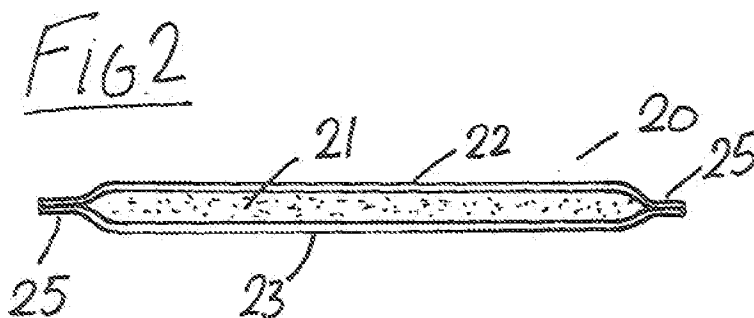
(30) Priority: **10.07.1998 IE 980555**
17.09.1998 IE 980768

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(54) **A make up removal pad**

(57) A makeup removal pad (20) has outer panels (22, 23) of a porous and absorbent fibrous material, preferably cotton. The two outer panels (22, 23) are adhe-

sively sealed together about a peripheral rim (25) of the pad forming a closed envelope or pocket within which is retained an intermediate layer of cotton in-fill material (21) which preferably includes short cotton fibres.



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Description

INTRODUCTION

[0001] This invention relates to a makeup removal pad. While the invention is particularly concerned with a makeup removal pad, the pads of the invention can be used in skincare applications generally.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Cotton balls and cotton wool rolls have been widely used for some time for cleansing purposes, for skincare, and for application and removal of cosmetics. The loose cotton wool tends to break up and produce lint in use which in many cases is undesirable. Circular cotton pads for makeup removal, and for hygiene, cosmetic and medical uses generally have been commercially available for some time. European Patent Specification No. EP0819393 discloses a layered makeup removal pad having a central layer of an absorbent carded cotton material sandwiched between a pair of outer layers of a non-woven fabric. Patent Specification No. US5480699 discloses a pad having three or more layers comprising a pair of compressed surface layers on each side of an intermediary absorbent layer. Patent Specification US5762946 discloses a foam pad for the care and topical treatment of skin. The pad may comprise two sheets of foam encapsulating a water-soluble or water emulsifiable cosmetic, dermatological or pharmaceutical product such as soap or a skincare cream.

[0003] It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved makeup removal pad which is economical to produce.

[0004] Also, for retail, a number of individual pads are usually packaged in a carton or box or alternatively the pads may be stacked in a plastic bag or the like packaging. A disadvantage of this packaging is that as the pads in the package are used up, the remaining pads may become progressively more inaccessible and difficult to remove from the package. Further the pads tend to disintegrate easily during use.

[0005] The present invention is directed towards overcoming these problems.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0006] According to the invention, there is provided a makeup removal pad comprising a first outer layer of a fibrous material which is porous, a second outer layer of a fibrous material which overlies the first outer layer, an intermediate layer of an absorbent fibrous material between the two outer layers characterised in that the first and second outer layers are sealed together about an endless seal which forms a pocket within the seal between the first and second outer layers for reception of the absorbent fibrous material of the intermediate layer. Thus advantageously, the absorbent fibrous material

of the intermediate layer is sealed within outer layers.

[0007] In a particularly preferred embodiment, the intermediate layer includes short fibres of length not exceeding 1mm. Thus waste material which is normally a bi-product of other processes can be used to form the intermediate absorbent layer. This provides both an outlet for disposal of the normally waste short fibres and at the same time provides a cheap and effective filling for the pad.

[0008] In another embodiment the outer layers are sealed together about a peripheral rim of the pad.

[0009] In a particularly preferred embodiment, the outer layers each comprise a non-woven fabric layer.

[0010] It is preferred also that both outer layers be of porous material. Preferably also one or both outer layers comprises an absorbent material. Most preferably the outer layers are of a cotton material.

[0011] Ideally the intermediate layer is of cotton material.

[0012] In another aspect of the invention, there is provided a cleansing strip comprising a plurality of interconnected cleansing pads, adjacent pads being joined together edge to edge along a tear-away link. Thus, conveniently the pad at the free end of the strip can be torn away for use. Also, as it is pulled from an outlet of the packaging within which it is mounted, it also draws the next adjacent pad to the outlet of the packaging ready for use. So advantageously, each pad is essentially presented at the outlet of the packaging in turn ready for use.

[0013] In a particularly preferred embodiment, the pads in the strip are folded back and forth in a zig-zag formation, the tear-away links forming hinges for folding the pads. The pads may be either individually folded back and forth or a number of the pads may be folded back and forth in a number of rows.

[0014] In an alternative arrangement, the strip may be wound on a reel from which individual cleansing pads may be torn away for use as required.

[0015] In a further embodiment, a decorative design is applied to an outer face of each pad. This may conveniently be done by embossing for example.

[0016] In a particularly preferred embodiment, each pad comprises a cotton filling sandwiched between a pair of outer sheets of cotton stock material, the outer sheets being sealed together along a peripheral edge of the pad.

[0017] It will be noted that the term "cotton" as used in this patent specification is to be taken to include similar materials such as cotton-viscose blends.

[0018] Preferably, the outer sheets are perforated or of a mesh construction. This advantageously allows good transfer of fluids into the inner absorbent filling while at the same time maintaining the structural integrity of the surface in particular and of the pad in general.

[0019] In another aspect, the invention provides a method for manufacturing a cleansing strip comprising:-

delivering a web of filling material to a pad forming station;

overlying each face of the web with an outer sheet; and

sealing the outer sheets together with the web sandwiched therebetween forming a cleansing strip with a number of interconnected cleansing pads joined together edge to edge with a tear-away link between adjacent pads.

[0020] The method may include the step of punching the strip from the web and overlying outer sheets.

[0021] In a further embodiment, the outer sheets are sealed together by applying pressure and/or heat to the outer sheets. They could in some cases be glued together if desired. Preferably, each pad in the strip has a peripheral sealing rim, the outer sheets being joined together along their periphery.

[0022] In a further embodiment, the outer sheets and web are fed together between press rollers for pressing the outer sheets together with a desired sealing pressure.

[0023] In another embodiment, two or more cleansing strips are formed together side-by-side and subsequently parted after sealing of the outer sheets together.

[0024] The method optionally includes the step of applying a design or pattern to an outer surface of each pad. This pattern or design may be applied by embossing for example.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0025] The invention will be more clearly understood by the following description of an embodiment thereof, given by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Fig. 1 is a plan view of a makeup removal pad according to the invention;

Fig. 2 is a sectional view of the pad of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of portion of a cleansing strip according to the invention;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the cleansing strip shown in a partially folded condition;

Fig. 5 is a plan view of a cleansing pad forming portion of the strip;

Fig. 6 is a schematic side sectional elevational view of a strip forming station;

Fig. 7 is a perspective view of the strip forming station; and

Fig. 8 is a schematic side sectional elevational view illustrating the packaging of a strip.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0026] Referring to the drawings, and initially to Figs. 1 and 2 thereof, there is shown a makeup removal pad according to the invention indicated generally by the reference numeral 20. The pad 20 comprises an absorbent cotton in-fill material 21 sandwiched between two outer layers or panels 22, 23 which are sealed together about a rim 25 of the pad 20. This rim may be any suitable depth but is typically in the order of 2 - 6mm deep. This endless sealed rim 25 helps stop the pad 20 from disintegrating during use and retain the in-fill material 21 within the pad 20.

[0027] It is preferred that both outer panels 22, 23 be of porous and absorbent material, most preferably cotton material. The porosity of the outer panels 22, 23 should be such as to allow through passage of moisture but also to insure secure retention of the in-fill material 21 within the pocket, formed by the sealed peripheral rim 25 of the pad 20. Conveniently, the outer panels 22, 23 may be formed of a non-woven cotton fabric which may be formed from hydro-entangled cotton fibres. Both of the outer panels 22, 23 may be of the same or different materials. At least one of the panels 22, 23, should be porous to allow through passage of liquids, oils, creams, cosmetics and the like. Preferably both of the panels 22, 23 are of porous and absorbent material.

[0028] The cotton in-fill material 21 could be of carded cotton material for example. Preferably at least portion of the in-fill material comprises short-fibres of length not exceeding 1mm. This short fibre material is generally waste material discarded during the production of other cotton products. Thus advantageously the invention provides a product which utilises this waste material. It is also much cheaper material than the more conventionally used carded cotton for example. While cotton is the preferred in-fill material, mixtures of other fibres may also be included. It is also envisaged that in some cases mixtures of the short fibres with either longer fibres or possibly carded cotton material may be used.

[0029] Regarding the sealed rim 25, while it is preferred that the edges of the panels 22, 23 are glued together, it may in some cases be possible to form an adequate seal by the application of sufficient pressure to the edges of the panels 22, 23. It is essential that when the in-fill material includes short fibres that this seal should be strong enough not to part during use.

[0030] Referring to Figs. 3 to 8 of the drawings, there is illustrated a cleansing strip according to another aspect of the invention, indicated generally by the reference numeral 1. The cleansing strip comprises a plurality of interconnected cleansing pads 2, adjacent pads 2 being joined together edge to edge along a tear-away link 3. In this way, conveniently the pads 2 in the strip 1

can be folded back and forth in a zig-zag formation for packaging in a bag 5 as shown in Figs. 4 and 8.

[0031] Each pad 2 comprises a cotton filling material sandwiched between a pair of outer sheets 6,7 of cotton stock material. These outer sheets 6,7 are sealed together along a peripheral edge 8 of the pad 2. The outer sheets 6,7 may be of an open perforated or mesh construction.

[0032] In use, a user simply pulls the first pad 2 from the bag 5 and detaches the outermost pad 2 by breaking the link 3 with the remainder of the strip 1. The cleansing pad can then be used in the usual fashion. It will be noted that in tearing away the outermost pad 2, the next pad 2 is presented at an outlet of the bag 5 ready for subsequent use. It will be appreciated that all the pads 2 are neatly stored within the bag or other carton or container and are readily easily accessible to a user being conveniently presented at the outlet of the bag or carton for use.

[0033] Referring to Figs. 6 and 7, a method for forming the cleansing strip will be described. A web 10 of cotton filling material is delivered to a pad forming station 11. Outer sheets 6,7 are overlayed on a top and bottom face of the web 10 and then the sheets 6,7 and web 10 are delivered together between press rollers 14,15 which press the sheets 6,7 together to form the sealed peripheral rim 8 of the pads 2 with adjoining links 3 between the pads 2 in each strip 1. In this case, as shown in Fig. 7, a pair of strips 1 are formed together side by side and subsequently separated into strips 1 downstream of the pad forming station 11. Appropriate formations are provided on one of the rollers 14, 15 for forming the peripheral rim 8 and the links 3 as the sheets 6, 7 and web 10 are delivered between the rollers 14, 15. An outer face of each sheet 6,7 may be embossed prior to forming the strips 1 or may possibly be embossed as they pass between the rollers 14, 15 if desired.

[0034] Downstream of the pad forming station 11, the strips 1 are delivered through a folder which cuts the strips 1 to the required length and folds the strip 1 in the zig-zag pattern previously described prior to packaging.

[0035] It will be appreciated that in the manufacture, any suitable numbers of side by side strips may be simultaneously produced, for example, three or four strips.

[0036] It is also envisaged that, if desired, the pads may be impregnated with a liquid or lotion to, for example, assist in make-up removal.

[0037] The invention is not limited to the embodiments hereinbefore described which may be varied in both construction and detail within the scope of the appended claims.

second outer layer (23) of a fibrous material which overlies the first outer layer (22), between the two outer layers (22, 23) an intermediate layer (21) of an absorbent fibrous material, characterised in that the first and second outer layers (22, 23) are sealed together about an endless seal (25) which forms a pocket within the seal (25) between the first and second outer layers (22, 23) for reception of the absorbent fibrous material of the intermediate layer (21).

2. A pad (20) as claimed in claim 1 wherein the intermediate layer (21) includes short fibres of length not exceeding 1 mm.
3. A pad (20) as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the outer layers (22, 23) are sealed together about a peripheral rim (25) of the pad (20).
4. A pad (20) as claimed in claim 3 wherein the peripheral portions of the outer layers (22, 23) are joined together by adhesive to form the peripheral rim (25).
5. A pad (20) as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the outer layers (22, 23) each comprise a non-woven fabric layer.
6. A pad (20) as claimed in any preceding claim wherein both outer layers (22, 23) are of porous material.
7. A pad (20) as claimed in any preceding claim wherein 1 or both outer layers (22, 23) comprise an absorbent material.
8. A pad (20) as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the outer layers are of cotton material.
9. A pad (20) as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the intermediate layer is of cotton material.
10. A cleansing strip, comprising a plurality of interconnected cleansing pads as claimed in any preceding claim, adjacent pads being joined together edge to edge along a tear-away link.

Claims

1. A makeup removal pad (20) comprising a first outer layer (22) of a fibrous material which is porous, a

